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Letters

Defector Disputed

KGB Defector Vladimir Kuzichkin's account of Soviet involvement in Afghanistan [Nov. 22] is an extraordinary mixture of minor revelations mixed with half-truths, significant omissions, distortions and falsities.

His revelations that President Babrak Karmal was on the KGB payroll for years was common knowledge in Kabul. That Mohammed Daoud conducted widespread slaughter, that the Afghans were slaughtering one another and that the 1978 coup overthrowing Daoud was arranged hastily "in desperation" from jail cells are false and serve a propaganda line that Moscow has long promoted.

Nor did Hafizullah Amin emerge "from nowhere." Long the No. 2 man in the Khalq faction of the Communist party, Amin was the key man in organizing the 1978 coup and immediately emerged as the strongman of the Taraki regime. These and other questionable assertions would not have escaped the attention of any high-ranking KGB officer specializing in the area. One is forced to wonder about Mr. Kuzichkin's motives in making these statements.

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